

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Monthly, 3 Cents.

One Year, 25 Cents.

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

NOV 15 1899

VOL. 1.

BOSTON, MASS., JULY 15, 1897.

NO. 1.

A FEW HENS.

MUCH IN LITTLE.

EDITED BY

Michael K. Boyer,
Hammonton, N. J.

To whom all exchanges and communications for publication should be addressed. SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS, and all business matters must be sent to the publication office. Address such letters A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

This paper will be published MONTHLY, and devoted to every branch of MARKET POULTRY CULTURE. Its field will be the suburbs of cities, large towns, villages, and the farms of all America.

Brief Hints for Busy People.

Those who have not time to read and experiment upon long "spun out" theories, but who are anxious to get helpful, practical suggestions, which may be read in spare moments and put into practice daily.

A FEW HENS believes in thoroughbred stock and strictly first-class crosses. It does not favor high-class Standard-bred birds for utility. It will not devote any of its columns to the fancy, leaving that to journals better adapted for that work.

A FEW HENS is a "boiled down" journal. It is not padded—saying, in as few words as possible, what is necessary—giving the CREAM and not the skim-milk of poultry information.

The editor is actively engaged in making poultry experiments, and in this journal alone, he will publish from time to time the result of his work.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Pluck wins.

Always have something to sell.

A lazy man will have lazy fowls.

Keep a lock on the hen house door.

Don't allow smoking about the buildings

A good poultryman never gets 'the blues'

Spade up the runs every now and then.

No one knows it all. There is much to learn.

Fruit and poultry make a good combination.

You only keep a few hens? Then this is your paper.

Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

Mr. Mann, how old must the child be to run those bone cutters?

Better buy the farm on monthly installments than to pay rent.

Don't tolerate loafers. A hen that won't work will get into mischief.

Experimental Farm Notes.

Hints of Value to Beginners, Taken from the Trials and Experiences at the Experimental Station in New Jersey.

December 21, 1896, the experimental farm of the editor of A FEW HENS started. There are but two and a half acres of land, a half acre of which is devoted to a residence, lawn and flower garden—the remaining two acres being the poultry part. The poultry consisted of four hens and cock; five pullets and cockerel, all of the Light Brahma breed, purchased from I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass. Two old houses were on the place, capable of holding three pens of birds.

Just how we renovated those old buildings is told in the March 15, 1897 issue of FARM-POULTRY, a copy of which will be sent upon receipt of five cents, by addressing the publishers, I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

Results of hatching, and also egg records will be noticed in our August issue.

We purchased four fine ducks, of the Pekin variety, from Chas. F. Newman, Rossville P.O., Huguenot, Staten Island, N. Y., which for laying beat anything we ever had in the duck line. To "cap the climax," A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I., New York, proprietor of the famous Atlantic Duck Farm, sent his compliments with a grand young drake, weighing eleven pounds. He is a monster. Will it pay the farmer to keep a small flock of ducks on his farm? We are going to figure up the cost, and give results in our September number.

One evening at feeding time, a Light Brahma pullet was taken with a spell of violent coughing, after which she breathed very heavy. Upon examination we found the throat irritated, and the crop full of undigested food. Placing her in a separate coop we gave the bird a teaspoonful of glycerine, to which we added three drops of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, and she has not since shown any similar symptoms.

Two of our pullets got too fat for us, and being in a yard with a vigorous cockerel, soon broke down behind. They would assume a duck shape in standing up, and would be compelled to sit on the ground while eating grain. Yet with all this trouble they kept up remarkable laying. Finally they became broody, and we gave each a sitting of eggs. To our surprise, after bringing out a hatch, they so reduced in weight that today that "break down" appearance is entirely gone. Certainly a wonderful cure.

THIS PAPER will cost you only Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

There is nothing better for torn combs and wattles than vaseline. Our two Brahma cock birds got into a tussle, and by the time we discovered the racket one of the bird's combs and wattles were terribly torn. We at once washed the blood away with warm water, and then heavily coated every part of the sores with vaseline. It saved the bird from catching cold, and the wounds healed nicely.

We believe in combining fruit growing with poultry culture, and have put out some plum trees in the runs. Around each tree we built a two feet square frame, four feet high, and covered with two inch wire netting. This protects the young trees from the fowls, and yet allows the light and air to reach them.

We are still hatching with hens. Under several old apple trees we have nests made by laying barrels on the side. Over the tops we have Neponset paper, for roofing. In front of each nest is built a small run, four feet long, two feet wide and two feet high, with a movable top. In these runs we place drinking water, whole corn and grit, so that the hen can come off her nest and help herself at will. The plan works well. The hens are now busy hatching duck eggs.

We are not giving our chicks free range. There are too many dogs and cats in the neighborhood. So we have runs built—twelve feet long, two feet wide and two feet high. These runs are made of shingling lath, and one inch poultry wire netting. They are practically rat, cat, dog and hawk proof. About every week we move them to fresh grass land, so that the runs are never filthy. Not more than a dozen chicks are kept in each run, and they are flourishing as well as if they had free range.

Setting hens were unusually scarce around Hammonton, N. J., during March and early part of April, and we were compelled to do considerable hunting to get setting hens. As we are not yet prepared to run incubators and brooders, we had to resort entirely to the natural method. We bought hens all through March, April and May, for setting. Even our Light Brahmas showed very little inclination to set. The result is we have a large lot of mongrel hens—or, rather had; but as we are doing considerable feasting on chicken meat the mongrel crowd is gradually growing less.

At one time we were under the impression that hens without the attention of a male bird would lay just as well and not be so apt to become broody, as those mated. Our records show they will lay just as many eggs alone as if mated, but unmated flocks are not broody-proof by any means. In fact, out of the flock of five pullets without a male, every one became broody and set; while from the pen of four *hens*, mated, only one became broody. Even the theory that getting hens fat would lead on to broodiness, did not pan out. Our old hens got almost to fat for us, and yet no signs of broodiness, excepting the one stated.

Mating Brahmas in small flocks has certainly given us strong fertility—ninety per cent. of our eggs were fertile. But a small family with a vigorous cockerel is apt to have torn backs and sides among the hens. Another season we will try larger families and alternate males.

A Few Hints.

"The idea of success in poultry," writes Dr. J. H. Casey, of Kansas City, Mo., "is easily summed up: warmth, pure air, cleanliness, proper feeding, and capital."

No wiser words were ever spoken than these, by I. K. Felch: "The practical qualities are the foundation of the poultry industry. Rob a breed of utility, and breeder after breeder will desert it in disgust, until very few will be found who will keep the breed."

Don't laugh at our forefathers' ideas. They did the best they knew how. Poultrymen of today have many more advantages than they had. Twenty years from now our sons will snicker "at the old man's fogginess." Our forefathers laid the foundation, and we are building on that. Our sons will improve on our work,

About Broilers and Roasters.

Brahmas for roasters.

Wyandottes for broilers.

Broilers should always be dry picked.

It will pay to raise broilers the year round.

Twelve weeks should be the broiler age at most.

Chick grit should be about the size of coarse sand.

See that the chicks have grit constantly before them.

Laying hens make the choicest roasters if well fattened.

For small roasters the Plymouth Rocks are well in the lead.

Small roasters—four to six pounds each—sell best in market.

Do not put meat scraps in the mash for chicks the first week.

Hard-boiled eggs and wet cornmeal do more harm than good to young chicks.

If, in dressing fowls, the skin breaks, the tear must be carefully sewed up.

Three pounds to the pair is the most popular weight for broilers.

Roasting fowls generally bring the best prices from March to August.

At eight to ten weeks of age the Light Brahma makes a good broiler.

Plymouth Rock crossed on Langshan, or *vice versa*, makes a desirable roaster cross.

Indian Game cock on Plymouth Rock or Langshan hens, give first-class roasting fowls.

Keep the chicks busy. Scatter millet or canary seed among some light scratching material.

Powdered charcoal—a teaspoonful to a quart of feed—should be given chicks daily.

Buying up common eggs gave a serious blow to the broiler industry in Hammonton.

Lettuce, onion tops and lawn clippings, all cut fine, make the best green diet for chicks.

Leghorns in their purity make poor broilers. But crossed with an American breed they are first-class.

The flesh of the Indian Game is fine grained; full breast, broad back and plenty of meat.

Great chances are taken by holding the stock for the holiday markets. There is nearly always a glut.

Nothing like rolled oats, moistened with milk, alternated with stale bread crumbs, for the first ten days of the chick's life.

There is a good profit in summer broilers. Of course, the prices are lower, but the eggs, fuel, etc., are correspondingly cheap.

Geo. G. Harley, poultry manager of the Long View Poultry Farm, Hyattsville, Md., has built up a handsome trade on celery-fed broilers.

The Langshan makes a very good roasting fowl, but does not sell so well in the general market, owing to its white skin.

A. F. Cooper writes that he visited a broiler plant in Ohio, during last April, where he found 19,000 chicks from a day old up to ten weeks.

Using eggs only from a single breed or cross, will give a more uniform lot of birds, and there will be less culling necessary when ready for market.

The broiler market practically begins in February, improves in March, and reaches the highest point in April. Then it gradually reduces until by August 1st it is very fluctuating. During October, November and December, there is very little demand for broilers.

Judge Brown's method for fattening roasting fowls for market, is to feed a variety, letting the last feed for one day be all the corn they will eat; next day have it boiled; third day buckwheat boiled. Cornmeal mush, made as fine as possible, allowed to get cold, then warmed slightly, is a good noon-time feed. See that green food is well supplied, and clean fresh water and grit always on hand.

A Few Egg Paragraphs.

Fresh eggs only.

The Spanish lay the largest egg.

All the heavy layers give white-shelled eggs.

The egg business should be a cash business.

Double-yolked eggs are laid by too fat hens.

We don't know how to preserve eggs. Don't want to know.

The cross of Black Minorca on Black Langshan is excellent for winter laying.

The Polish, once a heavy layer, is now but ordinary—and breeding for a huge crest did it.

Breeding for an extra large white face in the Black Spanish, has ruined the once remarkable egg record of that breed.

"Let me have hens about me that are fat and eat much corn!" says the man who does not like to hunt eggs. That paragraph is from the *Rural New-Yorker*, and "them's our sentiments."

It is said that breeding the Brown Leghorns to a larger size has lessened their qualities as egg producers. But it is admitted that the size of the eggs has increased by such breeding. Give us size.

OUR BEST OFFER.

A Few Hens, Monthly,	- - .25
Book A Living from Poultry,	25
" Profitable Poultry Farming,	25
" Poultry Doctor,	- - - 50
" How to Destroy Insects,	30
The Five,	- - - - \$1.55

IF ORDERED AT ONE TIME, we will send the year's subscription to this paper, A Few Hens, and the FOUR books, for ONLY \$1.10, cash or stamps.

Send all orders and money to
A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

Geese for Profit.

Do not frighten the goslings.

Geese pair if sexes are equal.

Four females to a male is a good mating.

The Toulouse geese are not persistent setters.

The heaviest geese are the Toulouse and Embden.

The goose laying season opens, usually, in February.

Young ganders are better for breeding than young geese.

Generally speaking, geese are remarkably free from disease.

The Toulouse goose lays from thirty to forty eggs in a season.

Old geese lay more eggs, and are more reliable, than young geese.

Young geese should not have access to water until pretty well feathered.

To tell the sex of geese, the male has a fine voice, and the female a coarse one.

The Toulouse goose yields about a half pound of feathers of good quality at a picking.

Neither the Toulouse nor the Embden goose begins laying before about a year old.

Diarrhœa is the chief disease among goslings, due either to colds or improper feeding.

When geese show giddiness, they may be relieved by bleeding in the foot with a needle.

A small yard, fifty feet square, with some shade, will be large enough for seventy-five goslings.

Ganders should be changed every two or three years. After that age they are quarrelsome and unproductive.

At three years of age, Toulouse geese, if well fattened, will frequently weigh from forty-five to fifty pounds per pair.

Geese are the longest lived of our domesticated poultry, and have been known to hatch and raise their young when twenty-five years old.

Ducks and Ducklings.

Provide shade.

The Pekin leads.

Do not feed whole grain.

The duck usually lays at night.

The Cayuga is a pure American.

Ducks require soft, succulent food.

The Rouen is the favorite in France.

The Aylesbury is the choice of England.

The duckling industry is annually growing.

Never let the supply of drinking water run out.

The Rouen duck is closely related to the Mallard.

The foundation of success lies in the breeding stock.

Vigorous birds can be profitably bred at four years of age.

Fifty per cent is a good average of hatch early in the season.

The bulk of failures is due to use of weak breeding stock.

From July to September prices for green ducks remain unchanged.

From September to November ducklings again bring good prices.

Green ducks at eight weeks old should weigh nine pounds to the pair.

Do not allow the ducklings to get wet before they have assumed their white feathers.

Whole grain is apt to cause leg weakness, and the birds break down, droop and die.

Do not forget that a duck cannot well eat without having water to drink with it.

At ten weeks of age, ducklings should weigh from ten to eleven pounds to the pair.

Successful duck farming cannot be accomplished without the use of thoroughbreds.

Green ducks bring the best prices about May 1. From then on until July the price gradually falls.

The color of the egg shell of the Aylesbury varies from a creamy-white to a green or creamy-green.

George Pollard, of Pawtucket, R. I., prefers ducks and drakes in their second year for breeding.

Clean sand should always be mixed in the food of old or young ducks. About a handful to a half bucket of feed.

George Pollard feeds his ducklings, the first four days, two-thirds bran, and one-third cornmeal, mixed with cold water or skim-milk.

A good mating is a drake to four or five ducks in the early part of the season, and six to seven ducks to a drake during the summer.

Always keep a trough of cracked oyster shell before the breeding ducks.

In dressing ducks, dipping the hand or fingers into a dish of water, causes the feathers to stick to the hand, and enables one to remove them more rapidly and with much less exertion.

Turkey Culture.

Avoid inbreeding.

Avoid exposure to showers.

Turkeys fatten on beech nuts.

Nests should be on the ground.

Feed the young little and often.

Turkey broilers is the latest fad.

Seven eggs is considered a sitting.

Curd is excellent for young stock.

Turkeys need plenty of grass range.

Do not let the young become chilled.

Turkeys will shrink one-third in dressing.

No "sloppy" food must be given the young.

The Bronze is the largest of the turkey family.

A good start is everything in rearing turkeys.

See that the parent stock is strong and vigorous.

Turkey hens are profitable until five years old.

It is a good plan to change gobblers every year.

Let the fowls fast for twelve hours before killing.

It requires twenty-eight days to hatch a turkey egg.



A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

EDITORIAL.

As **A Few Hens** makes its bow to the poultry fraternity, it knows full well that the journalistic ranks are already crowded. It is likewise aware of the fact that there are excellent—well edited and neatly printed—magazines and papers regularly issued. And yet, with all this knowledge, the publishers and editor feel that there is room for **A Few Hens**, and that its publication need not necessarily offend or crowd any of those so well known.

A Few Hens will be edited upon an entirely different plan than is adopted by any of the other publications. It will, in the first place, be purely a market poultry journal, teaching beginners especially, how to raise broilers and roasters; how to make a success of egg farming; how to prevent and treat diseases and ailments; how to feed for profit; how to successfully raise turkeys, ducks and geese. In short, it will omit nothing that is strictly practical.

On the other hand, it will not take up any phrase of the fancy, will not publish show reports, discussions on scoring, or Standards, or mating for points, or anything that will be of no interest to the farmer or suburban poultry raiser. All such matters do not belong to a practical poultry paper. We have plenty of journals that deal in that class of goods, and as those journals are edited by thorough fanciers, there would be very little hope for good work from would-be fancy editors. The editor of this journal don't know anything about such matters. He is no fancier—neither is he a poultry judge. Nothing but a plain, practical poultryman.

This journal will aim to be a guide for beginners—and yet many hints will be dropped that may be of value to those already in the business.

In the second place, the columns of **A Few Hens** will not be overburdened with long, padded articles—space fillers. Everything will be said in a few words. It is useless to waste a lot of space to tell a fact that can as well be couched in a few lines. Each issue will contain enough matter, which, if spread out as some journals do, would fill a magazine five times its size. We are living in an age of quick reading. *Multum in parvo*—much in little. The days of long-winded articles have gone by.

Yet, with all that, **A Few Hens** will be a thoroughbred. It will not advocate the use of common hens. It will teach how to have hardy, sturdy purebred poultry—and how to breed those thoroughbreds so they will be the most profitable. We want hens that lay eggs; we want carcasses that are worth eating. In those features do we see the most beautiful fowls. Beauty in poultry otherwise reaches only to the skin.

In the plan laid out for the editorial work, the reader will not be compelled to wade through several columns to find what could have been said in an inch. Some editors claim that to extend an article is to show editorial ability. We differ. It is harder to plainly state a fact briefly than to get at it in a long drawn explanation. Long articles (which very often are of great value) are passed over; while short items are always read.

Everything will be written in a plain style. There will be nothing polished. We are not going to show you how we have mastered Webster or Worcester. We are not going to hide our poultry knowledge behind high-sounding, technical phrases. We want to have everything so stated that the man of an ordinary education may clearly understand our meaning.

We shall welcome items, experiences, and facts from our readers; and we shall be pleased to have a mutual exchange with all poultry publications. We want to be friendly to all—we want no enemies—we want each issue of **A Few Hens** to add to its list, by the thousands, of friends, readers, subscribers.

The price of subscription is small—so small that those in search of poultry knowledge will be able to secure the paper regularly. And with the hope that those receiving this issue will at once give us their support by subscription; and in the further hope that **A Few Hens** will be of great service to its readers, we ask that the issue in hand may receive a careful perusal.

THE EDITOR.

THE editor of **A Few Hens** is no fancier. He is a plain market poultryman; believes in thoroughbred, but not in fancy poultry. Loves only such fowls that have pure blood, and perform great work either in making of eggs or meat.

THE editor of **A Few Hens** will be pleased to answer all inquiries that may come up regarding practical poultry. If postage is enclosed a prompt answer will be given by mail. We want to help all we can. You practically employ the editor when you join the circle.

CROSSING is an art which, if rightly handled, will be productive of much good. But the male birds of a cross must never be mated. For quick growing, plumpness and hardness in chickens, a cross is excellent. For good winter laying, as pullets, a cross is unsurpassed. But beyond the first year of a crossbred's life, there is very little hope. When matured, a thoroughbred will always give the best of satisfaction.

FOR a practical poultry farm, there should be three classes of poultry, so that there would be a regular supply of broilers, roasters and eggs the year round. For instance, Brahmas, Cochins or Langshans for roasters and winter eggs; Plymouth Rocks, or Wyandottes, or any of the American class for broilers and winter eggs; and Leghorns, Minorcas, Andalusians, or any of the white egg breeds, for summer laying, when the others are broody. Then by getting early chickens in spring, the pullets would be layers while the hens were in moult.

THIS PAPER will cost you only **Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS**. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Do not overfeed.
Do not underfeed.
Give charcoal twice a week.
Apples are relished by fowls.
Feed the mash the year round.
Have regular hours for feeding.
Don't feed red pepper by itself.
We do not endorse food hoppers.
Avoid too much carbonaceous food.
White clover hay is the richest in lime.
Milk is a valuable food for laying hens.
Never let the supply of grit run out.
Carbon is oil, fat, starch, sugar, etc.—carbonaceous materials.
Don't have a feast today and a famine tomorrow.
Have as much variety as possible in the diet.
Stir up the table scraps with the morning mash.
Give the evening feed an hour before roosting time.
Laying hens need more food than those not laying.
Rye is the poorest grain we have for poultry.

Food and Feeding—Continued.

A fowl that is plump is not necessarily overfat.
 Feeding clover is a preventive of soft-shelled eggs.
 Give fresh water twice a day during hot weather.
 Always pen alone those fowls to be fed for fattening.
 Corn and buckwheat being very fattening should be fed sparingly.
 Six o'clock is early enough to feed during summer mornings.
 Don't let the drinking water be exposed to the sun.
 Have the morning mash crumbly, not sloppy; warm, not hot.
 Boiled oats make a good change for the morning mash.
 Hemp seed, as a variety, is valuable during the moulting season.
 Remove the food that is not eaten, an hour after feeding.
 Corn and meat are the principle articles for a fattening diet.
 Do not feed corn during summer. It is entirely to heating.
 The mineral matter consists of lime, soda, potash, magnesia, sulphur, etc.
 Never throw the mash on the floor. Feed it from troughs.
 Wheat leads as a well balanced food, and barley comes next.
 The best way to feed corn is in the corn-meal state.
 Never mix sulphur in the soft food during a rainy season.
 Nitrogen is albumen, fibrine, flesh forming, as the white of an egg.
 There is more in the feed than the breed for good results.
 Don't feed cooked vegetables when you notice a looseness of the bowels.
 Prof. Hill says: An overfed fowl is never a well-fed one.
 Exercise should accompany every feed of whole grain, by scattering among litter.
 Cut clover hay has revolutionized the egg business. Green cut bone comes next.
 Feeding "all the fowls will eat up clean" depends upon what you are feeding.
 Be sure to scald the drinking fountains once a week during hot weather.
 It pays better to feed the milk to the hens than to the pigs.
 Sunflower, rape and millet seeds contain large proportions of oil, and are very fattening.
 Sunflower seed will be relished if fed twice a week during moulting season.
 Too much buckwheat feeding produces a white flesh and light colored yolks in eggs.
 Red clover hay contains about twenty-eight pounds of lime to the thousand pounds.
 There is not enough lime in an exclusive grain diet to prevent soft-shelled eggs.
 We believe in feeding oats ground, and mixed with the morning ration, rather than whole.
 The wise poultry farmer has sown crops of cabbages, turnips, beets, potatoes, etc., for winter feeding.

Never mix grit or oyster shells with the soft food. It is apt to produce enteritis.
 Corn bran has 16.45 per cent. ash; 7.12 per cent. protein; 50.38 per cent. carbohydrates; 5.00 per cent. fat.
 Scatter the grain so that the "bullies" in the flock cannot crowd out the more timid ones.
 The starch of feeding stuffs is known as carbo-hydrate, the hydrate meaning water in a crystalline state.
 Be careful how you feed whole corn, and never give it in summer, excepting to sitting hens.
 Scald the clover hay at night, and keep it covered. It will be warm yet the next morning.
 A patch of green rye, about two inches tall, is a feast for both old and young stock.
 Wheat bran has 5.80 per cent. ash; 15.40 per cent. protein; 53.90 per cent. carbohydrates; 4.00 per cent. fat.
 A little of Sheridan's Condition Powder in the morning mash every other day, will greatly assist the hens while moulting.
 While crockery makes good grit, it is dangerous to use, owing to the more or less amount of lead in the glaze.
 It is a mistake to feed mashes three times a day. Likewise it is wrong to feed nothing but whole grain.
 Linseed meal being highly nitrogenous, and very fattening, it must be fed sparingly—about a pound to fifty hens, twice a week.
 One ounce of green bone for each hen, is enough for a meal. Feed the bone two or three times a week.
 The clover should be cut to one-half inch lengths. When longer it is apt to pack in the crop causing crop-bound.
 Never yard Leghorns or fowls of that build, with Plymouth Rocks or Brahmas. The amount of food to keep the former in condition would fatten the latter.
 Howard says in the composition of the egg, which is divided into the white, yolk and shell, we find that water, fat, albumen, sugar and mineral water are all in the white.
 If the egg shells are placed in a pan and heated in the kitchen stove oven for about one hour, they will be well dried and can be easily crumbled. They can then be mixed with the morning mash.
 Chemical analysis and experiments show conclusively that the ordinary grain and green food supplied to laying hens do not contain enough lime for the formation of the egg shells. Crushed oyster shells always before the hen will supply the deficiency.

Artificial Hatching and Brooding.

Don't sprinkle the eggs.
 Fill the lamps in the evening.
 Never use oil less than 150 test.
 Use a new wick for every hatch.
 Proper hatching temperature—103°
 A dry cellar is the best for hatching.
 Scrape the black scale from the wick.
 Cooling the eggs makes strong chicks.
 The incubator room must be ventilated.

See that the lamp never becomes empty.
 The fresher the eggs the better the hatch.
 Do not help the chick out of the shell.
 Do not set the incubator near a window.
 Test the eggs at the end of the first week.
 Duck eggs require more air than hen eggs.
 When the chicks crowd they need more heat.
 Sectional brooders are best for small houses.
 If the air is humid, no moisture will be required.
 Follow the directions given by the manufacturer.
 White-shelled eggs can be tested on the fourth day.
 Do not turn or cool the eggs after they are pipping.
 After the fourth day turn the eggs night and morning.
 See that the burner is kept clean and free from dirt.
 Too high temperature quickens a hatch. Too low prolongs it.
 Do not add eggs to the incubator after the hatch has started.
 Seventy degrees is warm enough for chicks three weeks old.
 Experts agree that tobacco smoke is injurious to hatching eggs.
 Do not turn the flame up high enough to smoke or gather soot.
 Duck eggs will hatch at a lower temperature than hen eggs.
 Test repeatedly so that you may know the size of the air-cell.
 If the chicks scatter about the brooder at night, the heat is just right.
 Have the large ends of the eggs in the trays all pointing the same way.
 Ninety degrees is high enough temperature to begin brooding chicks at.
 A delayed hatch can be hurried by adding sponges dipped in boiling water.
 Cool the eggs after the fourth day, only a little at first, and more as the hatch progresses.
 If the air cell of the egg is very large, add moisture. If very small, take the moisture away.
 The brooders usually sold by incubator manufacturers are merely nurseries; excellent for the first ten days of the chicks' life.

FARM-POULTRY.**The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.**

This paper is edited with great care. The publishers spare no expense to make it the leader among advanced poultry papers. It contains the experiences and observations of the life work of many breeders. There is no investment a poultry breeder can make, which will afford as much value for the money as a yearly subscription to Farm-Poultry.
 Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10.
 Send orders either to MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammononton, N. J., or the publishers below.
I. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY, Boston, Mass.

Artificial Hatching.—Continued.

Do not cool nor turn the eggs after the eighteenth day for hen eggs, and the twenty-fifth day for duck eggs.

Incubator-hatched stock are as strong and good as those brought out in the natural way, providing the machine has not been mismanaged.

Cyphers says that chilled chicks, kept in a brooder where the temperature is up to 100°, and fed on bread and milk, will generally recover.

The air cell on the fifth day should measure about a quarter of an inch; tenth day, half inch; fifteenth day, five-eighths inch; nineteenth day, three-quarters inch. Take measurement from middle of large end.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Exercise is the best tonic.

Never feed sour or tainted food.

Cleanliness is next to godliness.

High perches cause bumble foot.

Keep the drinking fountains clean.

Clean up the droppings every morning.

Kerosene the roosts once a week for lice.

Feather-pulling is a vice caused by overcrowding and idleness.

Burn a pound of sulphur in each pen once a month to disinfect.

The moment sickness is noticed separate the victim from the well ones.

Before giving liquid medicine to a fowl, see that the nostrils are clear.

The majority of cases of "cholera" are nothing more than indigestion and lice.

Quinine, dissolved in water is an excellent wash for swelled head in roup.

Keep a piece of asafoetida in the drinking fountain, as a preventative of gapes.

An ointment made of equal parts of kerosene and melted lard will cure scaly legs.

For lice, rub the heads of the chicks with a sponge that has been *moistened* with kerosene.

A tablespoonful of kerosene in a quart of drinking water is a good remedy for cold in the head.

Put four drops of tincture of aconite in a half pint of drinking water, if there are signs of colds by sneezing.

Gapes is a disease that shows itself in chicks between six and eight weeks of age, and not generally after four months old.

When pullets are too fat, too much animal heat is apt to be created, which is likely to throw them in moult out of season.

To disinfect, clean the coops and then wash thoroughly with water containing five ounces of sulphuric acid to one gallon. Spade up the runs, and scatter carbolate of lime freely about the house.

A small piece of camphor about the size of a grain of wheat, daily, and ten drops of camphor or turpentine added to a pint of drinking water, is a good remedy for the gapes.

A correspondent in the *Ohio Farmer* claims grated calamus root, mixed with bread crumbs, and made into small boluses, a sure cure for chicken cholera. Force the boluses down the throat of the sick fowl.

"If the people were so forcibly instructed in prevention, as they are to treatment of disease, there would be no need of disease. This applies as well to poultry as the human family."—Dr. J. H. Casey.

Robert A. Braden says that a dose of quinine for a grown fowl, is what will lie on the point of a common-sized pocket knife, once a day. Smaller chicks a less amount in proportion to age.

Dr. Navin's recipe for chicken cholera is ground ginger, 4 ounces; black antimony, 2 ounces; flour of sulphur, 2 ounces; pulverized nitre, 2 ounces; sulphate of iron, 4 ounces. Dose—full teaspoonful mixed with a pint of dough, and fed twice a day. As a preventive feed once a week.

Setting Hens and Little Chicks.

Never set a hen with scaly legs.

Pullets are unreliable as setters.

A wild hen will have wild chicks.

Dust the hen well before setting her.

When the chick droops look for lice.

Protect the chicks from the hot suns.

See that the chicks are supplied with grit.

Sprinkle insect powder in the nest every week.

Clean up the nests if the hens befoul them.

The scratching hen gives her chicks much exercise.

Leave the hen with her young so long as she "clucks."

Give whole wheat to the hen, and soft feed to the chick.

Drive the young under shelter during sudden showers of rain.

It is better to keep the chicks indoors during inclement weather.

Spade up the runs, and thus get the chicks to search for worms.

Whole corn, grit and fresh water is the best fare for the setting hen.

The fact that the hen is laying is no sign that she wants to leave her young.

Have a little run in front of the nest of the setting hen, so she can go in and out at will.

Thirteen eggs in early spring, and fifteen during late spring and summer, are large enough sittings.

We find the H-O Poultry Food, which is a combination of all the grains, excellent for growing chicks.

Covered runs are a protection from hawks, cats or dogs. They should be moved to fresh plots of grass each week.

We whitewash the interior of our chick coops, and sprinkle Whitney's Super-Carbolate of Lime on the floor. This disinfection drives away lice.

COLORED Poultry Catalogue for stamp. H. H. FRICK, Fricks, Pa.

What We Think.

The business poultryman keeps a record of everything he buys and sells.

Get rid of the mongrel hens by grading them up with thoroughbred males.

Thoroughbred—not Standard bred—poultry for the farmer. That's the idea.

Paint on the buildings is an improvement that should never be neglected.

The louse remedies are becoming as thick as the grits were some time ago.

Boston deserves the thanks of practical poultrymen for making the dressed poultry department a leading feature of her annual shows.

Don't tell the neighborhood what you are *going* to do. Get right down to work and let your neighbors guess for themselves. They will soon be over offering advice. That will be all right. Thank them, but keep on just the same. Ten chances to one the neighbor who wants to drop you a hint or two needs advice badly himself.

WHITE WYANDOTTES. Eggs for sale the year round. WM. F. STROUD, Merchantville, N. J.

CORNISH Indian Games. After Sep. 1st, 4 Imported to sell. HARRY D. GATH, Oxford, Ohio.

White Wyandottes. Choice early hatched birds this fall at \$5.00 per trio. W. L. LONG, Marshfield, Mo.

JAMES M. SMITH, Box 150, Perkiomenville, Pa., Breeder of 16 leading varieties of Prize Winning Poultry. Eggs and Stock for sale. Catalogue free.

Madison Square Winners.

We have for sale at a low price, Exhibition and Breeding Barred and Wh. Rocks, Rose and S. C. B. Legh's, Bl. Langshans, (Robinson) Wh. Wyandottes, (Dustin) Bl. Minorcas, S. C. W. Legh's, Lt. Brahmas, Belgian Hares. W. W. KULP, POTTSTOWN, PA.

**Buff } Plymouth Rocks,
Leghorns.**

Stock and Eggs for Sale in Season.
OUR STOCK IS GOOD.

BROOKDALE FARM,

BOUND BROOK, N. J.

(Write for prices.) **L. S. BACHE, PROP.**

**PARSONS
PILLS****Best Liver Pill Made.**

Positively cure Biliousness and Sick Headache, liver and Bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cents; five, \$1.00. Book free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Box 2118, Boston, Mass.



Unlike any Other.

**Originated by an Old Family Physician.
THINK OF IT.**

In use over 40 YEARS in one Family.

DR. I. S. JOHNSON & CO.—It is sixty years since I first learned of this now celebrated remedy for the common ills of life—Johnson's Anodyne Liniment; for more than forty years I have used it in my family. I say (unasked by you) I regard it one of the best and safest remedies that can be found, used internal or external, in all cases it is claimed to relieve or cure. O. H. INGALLS, Dea. 2d Baptist Ch., Bangor, Maine. Should have Johnson's Anodyne Liniment in the house for Croup, Colds, Sore Throat, Tonsillitis, Colic, Cuts, Bruises, Cramps and Pains. Delays may cost a life. Relieves Summer Complaints like magic. Price, 35 cts. post-paid; 6 bottles, \$2. Express paid, I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

Notes in Passing.

Paint the fence posts.

Be a market poultryman.

Let Saturday be general cleaning-up day.

Thanks to Uncle Isaac Felch for the scratching shed idea.

Don't deprive your family of fresh eggs and choice carcasses.

"Large oaks from little acorns grow"—so with poultry farms.

In putting up several buildings, have them as much in line as possible.

Give your poultry credit for all you and your family use of their product.

The man who don't keep a record of eggs, sales, etc., never knows how profitable his poultry are.

The greatest art in poultry culture is to increase the egg record without decreasing the vitality of the stock.

Trading eggs at the grocery at wholesale prices, for goods at retail, is a one-sided way of doing business.

For a four-foot fence, use five-foot wire, and bury one foot in the ground. It will be stronger and better looking.

Neatly dressed, plump and attractive looking carcasses, and a clean, uniform lot of eggs, create a market of their own.

"Nothing can be much worse than a bad smell about the hen premises," truthfully writes Mrs. May Taylor to A FEW HENS.

The man who is roosting his fowls on tree tops this summer, will be inquiring next fall for a method to wean the birds to houses.

James Rankin believes in growing poultry in combination with and supplementary to other farm work. So do we, but make the poultry the main object, and not the "supplement."

It is all right enough for the United States to send frozen poultry and preserved eggs to London, if the English people prefer such, but we Americans want them fresh.

The wise fancier dabbles in the market business to the extent of disposing of his culls and surplus eggs; but the market poulterer has enough to do without engaging in fancy breeding.

"The wise poultryman don't know it all," writes W. H. Rhees, in the *Feather*. No, indeed. But the young fellow, who has been in business a year or two, is the one who cannot be taught.

A broiler plant is being started in Stamford, Conn., by D. A. de Lima & Co., of New York, that will hatch about 21,000 chickens and ducks a month. They expect to be in full operation by September 1st.

The *American Agriculturist* tells of a young farmer who runs a fruit, truck and egg farm, and supports his family and pays expenses with the egg money; the fruit and truck money goes in bank. He keeps five hundred hens.

"Cull early and often, and market the culls dressed."—Mrs. May Taylor. That is very good advice for fanciers, but for market poulterers, such as we are, better advice would be, market as early as the stock can be made ready.



Over 180 First Premiums.

The Prairie State Incubator

Is fully guaranteed in every respect.

Send for our large Illustrated 1897 Catalogue.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.,
HOMER CITY, PA.

The number of hens that should be kept is just the number that can well be taken care of, and no more. Do not overestimate your capacity.

Edward Atkinson, the noted statistician, says that the product of the hen of the United States is three or four times the value of the products of the silver mines of this country.

Poultry farming is the most independent occupation one can take up, after he has mastered the details. The articles are staple, and with good management there can be a crop to market each week throughout the year.

When you start your poultry plant, don't try to show your neighbors what a big display you can make. Rather begin small and grow gradually. It will do you more credit to show that you have built a gigantic and successful affair.

The Wyandottes are good for every purpose needed in the chicken line, be it broilers, roasters, frys, stew or bake, eggs, hatchers or hoverers, the market or fancy. I have tried them for six years, and like them better all the time.—Mrs. May Taylor.

THIS PAPER will cost you only Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

Make an experiment. Buy a good Jersey cow and for the same amount of money buy as many good fowls as you can. Give both the best of care, and at the end of the year compare the profits. Ten chances to one the hens will give you more dollars profit than the cow.

The *Iowa Homestead* says the markets of this country are not near supplied, and can never be over-stocked with poultry and eggs. The only reason why prices are not more uniform is that we have not yet gotten down to a proper mode of distribution. After the farmers once understand how to market, then they will have better returns.

Rye sown in the yards in the fall for winter pasture will do very well, but turn it under next spring. If left it soon grows too rank. We once had a very fine bird nearly ruined by allowing him to run in the rye patch. In "stripping up" the heads to get the grains, the beards caught in the side of his mouth. Before we noticed it there was a great lump there, and we found that it was a hole filled with rye beards.—Mrs. May Taylor.

The Poultryman's Library.

Books for the Beginner.

Poultry books have never been issued which contain more practical knowledge and such plainly written facts, as are found in the FARM-POULTRY series, issued by I. S. Johnson & Co., the publishers of FARM-POULTRY, Boston, Mass. Read over the synopsis of the contents of each work, as published below, and see if they are not what you have needed for a long time.

Profitable Poultry Farming,

By MICHAEL K. BOYER. Tells how to begin poultry farming; how to select stock; how to succeed; all about artificial incubation; how to run a butter and egg farm; how to feed for eggs; how to test eggs; how to combine poultry and fruit, broilers and vegetables; and how to run a general poultry farm. The chapter on duck farming is a complete book in itself, telling all about the large duck plants; how to run duck culture for profit; how to house, feed, hatch and dress ducks for market.

PRICE, 25 CENTS PER COPY.

Farm-Poultry Doctor,

By Dr. N. W. SANBORN. The most complete work ever issued upon the cause, prevention and cure of poultry diseases, besides giving full explanation on how to have sturdy stock; value of grit; how to properly house and yard; how to diet sick fowls; value of green food, and hints about grain.

PRICE, 50 CENTS PER COPY.

A Living From Poultry,

By MICHAEL K. BOYER. The only book ever written that tells what steps to take to establish a profitable poultry plant. Tells why men fail and women succeed; how much land is needed; best soil for poultry; buying a farm on installments; brief chat on houses, and how they should be built; review of the breeds and which are best for eggs, broilers and roasters. The crowning feature of the book is the chapter telling what can be accomplished with capital ranging from fifty to one thousand dollars.

PRICE, 25 CENTS PER COPY.

Broilers for Profit,

By MICHAEL K. BOYER. The largest and best work ever published upon the subject. It gives both sides; tells the amount of capital, land and time required; the value of incubators, and pointers in running them; explains the brooding system; how to feed and care for chicks; how to dress and ship to market; how to erect a model brooder house, and hundreds of valuable hints which will save money to those about starting, or who are in the broiler business. The book is compiled from the experiences of the pioneer broiler raisers in this country.

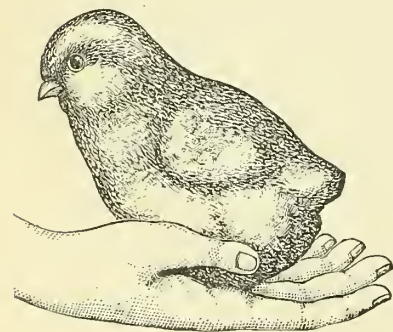
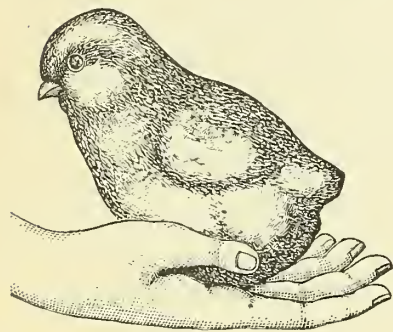
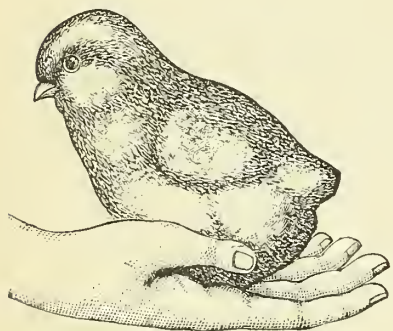
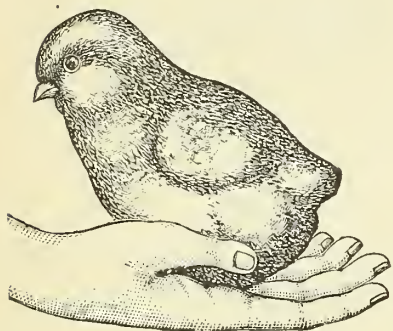
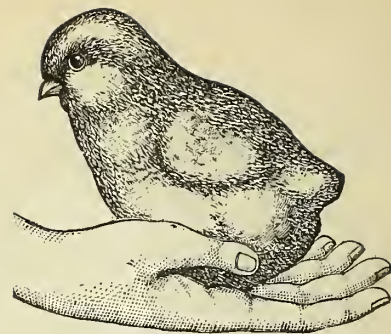
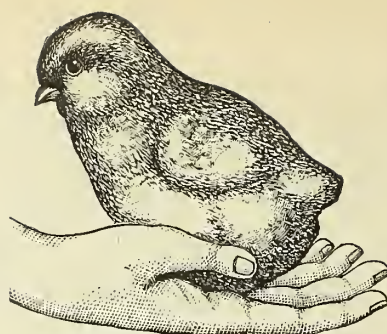
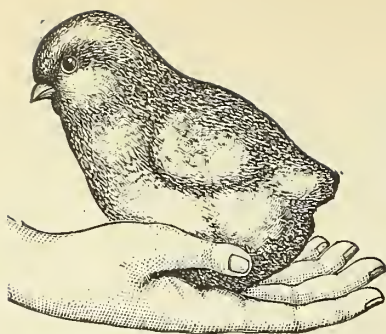
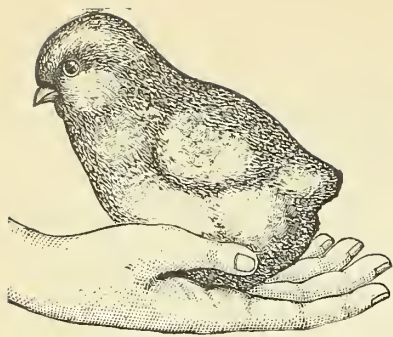
PRICE, 50 CENTS PER COPY.

Take Notice. Either or all of the above books will be sent, post-paid, at the prices named above for each. Remit by express or post-office money order, cash or stamps. Send all your orders to either of the following addresses:

'M. K. BOYER,
HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY.

Or to the Publishers,

I. S. JOHNSON & CO.,
22 Custom House Street., Boston.



Keep Your Chickens

**STRONG and HEALTHY,
And Make Your Pullets Lay Early.**

Those who succeed best raising poultry for profit are those who commence with little chicks, giving small doses of **Sheridan's Condition Powder**, twice a week; then a little larger doses, and so on to the time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying, a dose say of one teaspoonful to each quart of food, three times a week. Thus continue to use it, as one customer says she does, "from the cradle to the grave," and you will succeed nine times in ten, and have plenty of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when they bring in the large markets the best prices and sell readily.

To Make Your Poultry Pay, First Hatch Strong, Healthy Chickens.

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the pullets to lay when five months old. The use of **Sheridan's Condition Powder** at this time of year, as directed, will help materially to accomplish this much desired object. It is a fact, based upon the declaration of a noble contributor to science, that through the medium of the circulating blood, any particular organ of a living animal may be reached and stimulated into renewed vigor and activity, if we will only administer the proper material to produce the desired effect.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use! Sheridan's Condition Powder

Is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses. In quantity costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. In use over thirty years.

Feed it to Young Chickens.

Northboro, Mass.
Messrs. I. S. Johnson & Co.—I would not be without your Sheridan's Powder for my young chicks. I have used it, beginning as soon as they are hatched, and using daily in their morning meal; it keeps them healthy; keeps them growing, and I think keeps them lively. I have thirty out of three hatches now; my pullets have the last two years laid eggs at five months, and kept at it very well, and I am convinced it is feeding the Powder while they are maturing. It looks to reason that a healthy chick will mature faster than a feeble one. All I can say is, I am convinced that it is the thing to do to feed it to young chicks in sma" at the first, and gradually increase it un. are two months old; then I feed my chickens with my other fowl as convenient to do; only give them enough food of some kind, but don't forget the Powder in the morning meal from the "cradle to the grave." Yours, Mrs. L. J. WILSON.

Giving Vitality to Chicks.

Brunswick, N. C.
I. S. Johnson & Co.—Please find enclosed \$1.00 in stamps, for which send its value in Sheridan's Condition Powder. This is my third order for myself and relatives; we like it very much, both in the amount of eggs produced, and for giving vitality to the young chicks; heretofore we have been troubled with sickly chicks. NANNIE M. H. CRANFORD.

A Case of Diarrhoea Cured.

South Natick, Mass.
Messrs. I. S. Johnson & Co.—I find the Sheridan's Condition Powder of the greatest value for stimulating the general good health of my poultry, and have had remarkable success with it in curing a bad case of diarrhoea (inherited from the mother-hens) in a flock of very young chicks. Three or four days' use of the Condition Powder made them entirely well. It is of the greatest value to poultry raisers. A. F. HUNTER.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers, Feed Dealers, or by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

If You Can't Get it Near Home, Send to Us. Ask First.

We send one pack for 25 cents; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six cans, \$5.00. Express prepaid. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.

Sheridan's Condition Powder is Sold in Your Town